



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**
Construction Engineering
Research Laboratory

Fact Sheet

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE ASSESSMENT TOOLS OVERSEAS

The Problem

The U. S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL) began developing environmental compliance assessment manuals for the Department of Defense (DOD) in the mid-1980s. Among the tools developed at that time were manuals for use outside the continental United States (OCONUS) that were based on host nation environmental regulations. However, with the publication in 1992 of the Overseas Environmental Baseline Guidance Document (OEBGD), the DOD's approach to environmental compliance OCONUS began to change. The OEBGD became the fundamental document defining compliance obligations for DOD installations overseas until the process of developing Final Governing Standards (FGS) was complete for each host nation having a significant DOD presence. In countries for which FGS have been developed, that country-specific document contains the fundamental compliance obligations for all services. In those countries for which no FGS have yet been developed, the OEBGD remains fundamental.

The Technology

CERL develops compliance assessment manuals for the Army to use in conducting its Environmental Compliance Assessment System (ECAS) program overseas and for the Air Force to use in conducting its Environmental Compliance Assessment and Management Program (ECAMP) overseas. In FY98 it became possible for the U.S. Army Environmental Center (USAEC), Headquarters, Air Force Center for Environmental Excellence (HQ AFCEE), and Headquarters, U.S. Air Force, Europe (HQ USAFE) to enter into partnerships that have led to the development of compliance assessment manuals for use by any DOD agency overseas. The new OCONUS Compliance Assessment Protocols (OCAP) are based exclusively on the FGS, where they exist. OCAP-OEBGD is intended for use in those countries for which FGS have not yet been developed. OCAP Protocols have been developed based on the FGS for the following countries:

- Federal Republic of Germany
- Japan
- Republic of Korea
- Italy
- Spain
- Turkey
- United Kingdom

Service-specific environmental requirements are now found in supplements to the OCAP manuals. Air Force Instructions applicable to OCONUS (as well as Air Force policy) have been consolidated into the OCAP Air Force Supplement. OCONUS-applicable Army regulations have been brought together in the OCAP Army Supplement. Both the FGS-based manuals and the supplements now have the same structure as The Environmental Assessment and Management (TEAM) Guide (used state-

side) and a stable numbering system analogous to that in TEAM Guide. The manuals have been continually revalidated and improved through repeated use in the field by the CERL developers.

As paper compliance assessment tools have evolved, there has also been an effort to create computerized assessment tools. HQ USAFE and CERL have developed a reporting and tracking tool (on readily available commercial software) used by assessors in the field to record their findings and produce required reports. The same tool is used by base personnel to develop management action plans for correcting findings and by both the bases and headquarters to track the management action plan's execution. This tool, too, has been optimized through numerous field tests.

Benefits/Savings

The requirements of the OEBGD or of the FGS (if there is one for a given host nation) apply to all DOD components with a presence in the given country. With the implementation of a TEAM-like concept in the OCONUS arena, the cost of manuals based on the OEBGD or an FGS (as appropriate) are shared by DOD components with an interest in a given host nation. This cost sharing has greatly reduced the resources that each component commits to developing protocols. The distribution of paper copies and the associated printing and mailing costs have been eliminated in favor of electronic distribution via the DENIX electronic bulletin board and the Defense Technical Information Center (DTIC).

The OCAP manuals and the service-specific supplements serve as in-house assessment and reference tools for environmental managers. The reporting and tracking software makes the job of compliance assessors (both internal and external) considerably easier by automating repetitive tasks and by automating the production of reports. The same benefits are experienced by both base-level and headquarters environmental managers.

Status

Revisions to the OEBGD will soon be published, and OCAP-OEBGD will be revised as a result. Those revisions to the OEBGD will also trigger revisions to FGS, and the compliance manuals based on them will be updated as new versions of FGS become available. All documents are posted on DENIX and are available for use by the Army and Air Force (and other DOD components) in performing compliance assessments and daily operations. The DENIX web site is at <http://www.denix.osd.mil>.

Point of Contact

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